

about the Ebury Wharf concern dates some three years ago, the saddle will be placed upon the right horse, and the charge of "imitation" will not injure me. (2.) The oval flues for brickwork are of more recent origin, as far as I know, than tubular ones; but I formed and published the first, therefore they are public property. The first lot were used at Moreton Hall, Cheshire (Edward Blore, Esq., architect, Mr. Oliver, clerk-of-works), they were designed by Mr. Oliver, as I stated some time afterwards in the *Civil Engineer and Architects' Journal*, upon first making them public. I have regularly sold them since, and shall continue to do so, without any risk of the charge of imitation being proved against me.

Having abundant and easy means as regards the "Patent," I shall consider this word "spurious," in reference to the fabric, or mixture of materials composing these flues, and this I know to be ALL-IMPORTANT. Having then supplied them for a quarter of a century without any complaint, establishing their legitimacy and adaptation to the objects in view. From the appearance of those at Ebury Wharf, however, and referring to a letter which I received from thence in May last, I conclude that the parties have been, as they continue to be, ignorant of the fabric or mixture (the public can trust both the flues and the parties easily), and consequently though their material is legitimate and adapted to drains were always cold, it would, I fear, turn out "spurious" in chimney and other flues, which are subject alternatively to so great variations of temperature, to expansion and contraction, and to the rubs and knocks of cleansing engines.

Now, as to the word "caution" offered to the public;—forced as I was into extensive business at the age of fourteen by the death of my father—possessing as I now do 30 years' experience—I admit the wisdom and prudence of caution being in lively exercise. Also, I give due praise to honourable efforts to excite that caution in others. The public, however, are aware that a man may sometimes cry loudly and long "stop thief," pointing all the while in the wrong direction, namely, at his neighbour instead of himself. So, in like manner (without intending discourtesy to Ebury Wharf, or to any who are interested in it), the public will weigh the facts of the case, and do justice; they will apply the words "imitation" and "spurious" rightly. In consideration too of a firm of yesterday, all but unknown, on the one hand, compared with one who is known on the other; who was bred to the trade; who has occupied a long period in it; whose perseverance in it is acknowledged; by whose capital and skill, brought to bear upon it, not his own family merely, but the families of workpeople live in comfort, and, in more than one way, the community is benefitted; in such a comparison the public is not wont to exhaust its "caution" upon the assailant, but, in justice, reserves more than a little for the assailant.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
THOMAS PEARE.

22, Water-lane, City,
from "The Tiles' Tunstall."

NEW BUILDING-ACT.

Sir,—Having some ground to build about twenty pairs of fourth-rate detached cottages on, and wishing to begin them before January 1st, 1845, in order not to come under the restrictions of the new Act of Parliament, I should feel obliged if you would inform me how much footings I ought to put in to constitute the term "already built," which is expressed in the new Act.

September 16, 1844.

FELIX.

[It does not appear by the definition in section 5 of the new Act, that any considerable quantity of a building is required under such circumstances to be done; "commenced" is the term used, and a year thence afterwards is allowed for the completion of the buildings "fit for use."—Ed.]

STATUE OF NAPOLEON.—In the open space where the rue de l'Université and the Grande Chausée of the École de la Invalides meet, workmen are employed in making the enclosure of the ground on which the equestrian statue of the Emperor Napoleon is to be erected. In a short time the works for the pedestal, on which it is to be raised, will be begun.

Miscellaneous.

THE PORCELAIN PAGODA AT NANKIN.

In a work recently published, and entitled "An Aide-de-Camp's Recollections of Service in China, by Captain Arthur Cunyngame," is an account of a visit which the author and his companions made during their stay at Nankin to the far-famed porcelain pagoda, which so many travellers have desired to see, but have been refused. The exterior and interior are covered with plates of porcelain so neatly joined together as to give the work an appearance of being made of one entire piece. "A woodcut of the tower, together with a short description of it, was sold to the visitors for a few cash,* from which I will here quote a line or two, having received a translation from a friend. The paper stated that a pagoda had been, at various times, erected on the spot where the present porcelain tower stands, records of which are still retained as far back as the second century of the present Christian era, each successively, as they fell into decay or were destroyed by fire, being replaced, either at the expense of government or by funds supplied from the generosity of some pious private individual. The credit of rebuilding the present edifice is ascribed to two very celebrated emperors. The usurper, Gong-Lo (a monarch of the Ming house), being about to remove his capital to the north, erected this pagoda in honour of his mother, the celebrated spouse of Hang-Woo, as a tribute to her worth, and called it the Pagoda of Gratitude, Pao-gan-tai, or Pao-tan-gan-she. The pagoda, it states, was commenced in the tenth year of Gong-Lo, and was not finished until the seventh year of Lenaiik, taking a period of nineteen years for its accomplishment. It was built under the direction of one Whang-ghe-tai, a member of the Board of Public Works, and cost, so says this chronicle, 2,485,484 taels of silver, or 621,371 £ sterling. It is 329 coria four inches in height, having nine stories, with a golden globe on its top. The colours were given to the stones partly by a kind of gilt amalgam, and also by glazing, so as to be imperishable, and lasting through future ages; and the best proof thereof is, that it has never required repair, with the exception of its having been struck with lightning about forty-two years since, and that it still retains all the freshness of a recently-erected building. An iron rod, of considerable thickness, towers above the whole building, encircled by rings of gold, from beneath which there are 152 chains hanging gracefully down; 140 lamps, requiring no less than 64 catty (about nine gallons) of oil for a single night's consumption, are fixed in the niches, shedding their lustre around equally upon the virtuous and the wicked, and removing darkness from amidst mankind. Gold, silver, and pearls adorn the structure, and render it an object of the highest admiration." When at the top of the pagoda, Captain Cunyngame and his companions added their names to the many Chinese autographs that were scribbled on the walls, and uncorked sundry bottles of champagne to drink her Britannic Majesty's health, and success to her arms.

PUBLIC BATHS AND WASHHOUSES IN LONDON.—A project is on foot, which, if realized, will materially benefit a large portion of the London community. It is proposed to establish baths, coupled with washhouses for clothes, on such a scale as to place the comforts of cleanliness within the reach of all. "It is contemplated," says the *Spectator*, "to begin with four foundations, three on the Middlesex, and one on the Surrey side of the river, at a total expense of 30,000£. The annual charge thereafter to be met by the payments of those who use them; 1d. for a cold, and 2d. for a warm bath (the use of a towel inclusive), being the rates for the bathers; while at the washhouses all appliances and means for six hours' scrubbing, drying, and ironing, are to be supplied for 2d. With the aid of an income to be derived from a few baths of a more expensive kind, the institutions are thus expected shortly to compass their own support. It cannot be doubted that the 30,000£ will speedily be raised."

* A cash is a small copper coin with a hole in the centre, 1,200 of which are about the value of one Spanish dollar.

TESSELATED PAVEMENTS.—With all admirers of the arts and sciences, we hail with satisfaction the great improvements within the last few years in pavements, a subject so much neglected for many ages. Since the days of the Reformation our floors have been laid with little else than rude coarse flag-stones, raw boards, or at best, chequers of white and black marble, while the use of the handsome mosaics of the Romans, in the universal adaptation of classical models, seems to have been altogether overlooked, as well as the tessellated pavements of the middle ages, of which a fine remnant is concealed beneath a rush matting in front of the altar of Westminster Abbey, and a more perfect specimen still may be seen in Trinity Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral. At Great Malvern, Romsey, Winchester, Salisbury, Worcester, Rochester, and York, there are also fine specimens; but the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey, where a beautiful pavement in this style was carefully boarded over, when that building was fitted up as a record office, remains probably in greater perfection than any other extant in this country. Many of these are of great beauty; some consist of heraldic cognisances, others of figures, and others of very beautiful scrolls. They are probably as old as Edward III., who decorated the structure. Some of the first specimens of the revival of tessellated pavements may be seen in the Trinity Church and the Reform Club-house, London, and ere long Mr. Barry's good taste will be displayed in the adornment of the floors of the new Houses of Parliament with encaustic tiles. We trust that the example may not be lost sight of by those who have the superintendence of public edifices. They are also worthy the attention of architects for halls and passages even of very moderate-sized houses. Very ornamental, too, they would prove for hearths, mantle-pieces, &c. It has been thought that these pavements, on account of their cost, would be restricted to the mansions of the wealthy; but as their merits are becoming more generally known, this opinion is seen to be founded on error, for although the first outlay is more costly than some, yet, in point of economy, they must be selected in preference to every other kind of flooring.—*Nottingham Review*.

WHITE KNIGHT'S FARM, NEAR READING.—In reply to the advertisement, offering premiums of fifty guineas and twenty guineas for the two best plans for laying out this beautiful place for the erection of detached villas which appeared in our columns, thirty designs were sent in. In order to prevent the possibility of complaint, the proprietor placed the decision in the hands of two professional architects, Mr. George Godwin, F.R.S., and Mr. David Mocatta, F.S.A., who, after minutely investigating the plans on the spot, selected the design marked *Albi Milies* as entitled to the first premium, and that distinguished by a drawing of a knight as entitled to the second premium. These were afterwards found to be respectively by Messrs. Scott and Moffatt, and Mr. John Barnett, of Chancery-lane. The beauties of this extraordinary place, once the seat of the Duke of Marlborough, are such as to make us grieve at its appropriation for building purposes. It will, however, afford such sites for houses as are rarely found.—*Correspondent*.

CHIMNEY SUPPERSED.—Dr. Arnott has recently invented an air-pump, with which it is proposed to supply a draught to furnaces, that will supersede the necessity of funnels in steam-boats, and of the costly chimneys which now demand an great outlay in the erection of engine-houses. This pump, when worked by a weight, furnishes a draught equal to 100 cubic feet of air in a minute, in an uncompromised state. A slight transfer of power from any engine would thus suffice to create a strong draught, which can be so directed as to cause the consumption of the smoke.—*British and Foreign Quarterly Review*.

NEW CONSERVATIVE CLUB, ST. JAMES'S.—From the drawings submitted for the artistic embellishments of the interior of the new Conservative Club, the designs of Mr. Sang have been approved of and decided upon. The whole of the decorations are to be executed in encaustic, a mode which that gentleman has of late years introduced into this country, and which he has employed in the interior embellishments of the New Royal Exchange.—*Herald*.